

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed October 8, 2004. Applicant has amended claims 28, 34, and 41 to overcome objections, and canceled claims 1-5, 8-27, 29-33, and 35-40. Accordingly, claims 6, 7, 28, 34, and 41 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6 and 7 are currently allowable. Applicant thanks Examiner for recognition of patentable subject matter.

Claim Objections

Claim 28, 34 and 41 are currently objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks Examiner for recognition of patentable subject matter, and has amended claims 28, 34, and 41 accordingly. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 28, 34, and 41 are now allowable. Consequently, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and 8-27, 29-33 and 35-40 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,606,657 ("Zilberstein"). Claims 1-5 and 8-27, 29-33 and 35-40 have been canceled, rendering their rejections moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IDS REFERENCES

The Applicant filed an information disclosure statement (IDS) in the present application on September 16, 2004. The Applicant notes that the Office Action was not accompanied by a copy of the listing of references (Form SB08/08A) submitted with this IDS, initialed by the Examiner to indicate that the references cited therein were considered. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references cited in this IDS and forward a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 to the Applicant.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 6, 7, 28, 34, and 41. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

An extension of 1 (one) month is requested and a Notification of Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 with the appropriate fee is enclosed herewith.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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